

What is claimed is:

An automated external defibrillator comprising;

1. An information request input;

a state input indicative of an operational state of the defibrillator;

- 5                   an output; and

a controller which provides context-sensitive rescue information to the output in response to the information request input and the operational state of the defibrillator.

- 10           2. The automated external defibrillator of Claim 1 further comprising a second state input indicating the defibrillator electrode status, wherein said controller further provides said context-sensitive rescue information based on said second input.
3. The automated external defibrillator of Claim 2, wherein said defibrillator electrode status comprises a rescue electrode status, training electrode status or electrode not installed status.
- 15           4. The automated external defibrillator of Claim 3 wherein said rescue electrode status further comprises an adult electrode status or pediatric electrode status.
5. The automated external defibrillator of Claim 1 wherein said state input comprises an impedance between electrodes which is indicative of said operational condition of the defibrillator.
- 20           6. The automated external defibrillator of Claim 1 wherein said context-sensitive rescue information comprises a CPR instruction.
7. The automated external defibrillator of Claim 1 wherein said output is a speaker.
8. The automated external defibrillator of Claim 1 wherein the information request input is a button.
- 25           9. The automated external defibrillator of Claim 1, wherein said button is selectively activated by said state input, and wherein said activation is indicated by the automated external defibrillator. The automated external defibrillator of Claim 1, wherein said rescue

information further comprises defibrillator condition, defibrillation procedure guidance, user reassurance comments, enhanced CPR guidance, and defibrillator administrative guidance.

5 10. A method for providing context-sensitive rescue information to the user of an automated external defibrillator, the method comprising the steps of:

requesting help through a information request input;

determining an operational state of the defibrillator; and

conveying through an output rescue information based on said requesting step and determining step.

10 11. The method of Claim 11, further comprising the step of detecting a defibrillator electrode status, and wherein said rescue information is further based on said detecting step.

12. The method of Claim 12, wherein said defibrillator electrode status comprises a rescue electrode status, training electrode status or electrode not installed status.

15 13. The method of Claim 13 wherein said rescue electrode status further comprises an adult electrode status or pediatric electrode status.

14. The method of Claim 11, further comprising the step of measuring an impedance between electrodes, and wherein said output rescue information is further based on said measuring step.

15. The method of Claim 11, wherein said rescue information comprises a CPR instruction.

20 16. The method of Claim 11, wherein said output is a speaker.

17. The method of Claim 11, wherein said information request input is a button.

18. The method of Claim 18, further comprising the steps of;

selectively activating said button based on said operational state; and

illuminating said button in response to said activating step.

19. The method of Claim 11, wherein said rescue information comprises defibrillator condition, defibrillation procedure guidance, user reassurance comments, enhanced CPR guidance, and defibrillator administrative guidance.